

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. N. A. Cravens, private secretary to the Governor, appeared at the bar of the House and, being duly announced, presented the following message from the Governor, which was read in full to the House:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
STATE OF TEXAS.

Austin, February 13, 1903.

To the House of Representatives:

I return, without executive approval, House bill No. 21, styled "An Act to amend Article 351 of the Penal Code of the State of Texas, of 1895, relating to the crime of incest."

It seems that if this bill were to become a law, it would have the effect to permit the marriage of a woman to her stepfather after her mother's death; and also to allow a woman to marry her daughter's husband after the death of her daughter, and thereby remove the prohibition against such intermarriage under existing laws.

No good and sufficient reason is perceived for the legislation proposed. It does not appear to be necessary, either from the view-point of public policy or sound morality. It is not believed that it would add either to the sanctity, dignity or felicity of matrimony. Such intermarriage as it would tolerate and legalize should be discouraged rather than facilitated.

These and other obvious objections are such as to require the disapproval of this bill, and it is accordingly vetoed.

S. W. T. LANHAM,
Governor.